

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 SPC-03 INR-10 PRS-01 L-02 EUR-10

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P 210735Z MAR 74

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 39

INFO USLO PEKING PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 3190

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LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PINT, CH

SUBJECT: SHAWCROSS OBSERVATIONS ON SOUR NOTES IN SINO-U.S.

RELATIONS

REF HONG KONG 3041

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH CONGENOFF MARCH 20 SHAWCROSS MAINTAINED HE HAD BEEN TOLD BY "CERTAIN" AMBASSADORS IN PEKING THAT PREMIER CHOU WAS EXPRESSING "UNHAPPINESS" WITH THE LACK OF PROGRESS ON ISSUES IN SINO-U.S. RELATIONS (REFTEL). SHAWCROSS SAID THAT ACCORDING TO HIS SOURCES CHOU HAD SINCE JANUARY BEGUN TO REFER IN CONVERSATIONS TO U.S. INTERNAL PREOCCUPATIONS WITH WATERGATE AND TO COMPLAIN THAT BECAUSE OF THIS, PLUS A U.S. FOCUS ON THE MIDDLE EAST, SINO-U.S. RELATIONS WERE BEING NEGLECTED. SHAWCROSS WOULD NOT BE DRAWN OUT ON HIS SOURCES EXCEPT TO SAY THAT ALGERIAN PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE WAS THE LATEST TO HEAR SUCH REMARKS FROM CHOU. SHAWCROSS COULD NOT, OR WOULD NOT, DESCRIBE THE CONTEXT IN WHICH CHOU'S PURPORTED REMARKS WERE MADE EXCEPT TO SAY THAT HE CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD THE CHOU HAD VOLUNTEERED THEM. SHAWCROSS SAID THERE WAS SPECULATION IN PEKING DIPLOMATIC CIRCLES THAT CHOU WAS VULNERABLE TO INTERNAL CRITICISM FOR LACK OF MOVEMENT IN SINO-U.S. RELATIONS.

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2. SHAWCROSS REPEATED THAT KO PO-NIEN HAD REMARKED CRITICALLY TO HIM THAT PROGRESS WITH THE U.S. ON THE TAIWAN ISSUE WAS DISAPPOINTING, AND THAT HUANG CHEN'S ABSENCE FROM WASHINGTON "COULD BE" DIPLOMATIC.

3. SHAWCROSS ADDED THAT IN A MEETING WITH VICE FOREIGN MINISTER YAO YI-LIN, YAO SAID THAT THE PRC WAS "DISAPPOINTED" WITH THE LACK OF PROGRESS ON THE FROZEN ASSETS QUESTION AND FELT THAT THE U.S. WAS "NOT LIVING UP TO THE SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE."

4. COMMENT. ZAMBIANS MAY HAVE BEEN ONE SOURCE OF SHAWCROSS REPORT (LUSAKA 479). CHOU'S REPORTED REMARKS TO KAUNDA ABOUT TAIWAN AND THE PARACELS DO NOT STRIKE US AS ALARMING, BUT THEY ARE FIRST SUCH NEGATIVE COMMENTS ON SINO-U.S. RELATIONS BY CHOU WE HAVE HEARD OF SINCE SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE. EXCEPT FOR RECENT COMMENTS BY A HONG KONG COMMUNIST NEWSMAN TO DLO, WE HAVE NOT SEEN ANY OTHER REPORTS OF CHINESE OFFICIALS EXPRESSING SIMILAR DISPLEASURE WITH THE PACE OF SINO-U.S. RELATIONS. ON THE CONTRARY, VICE FOREIGN MINISTER CHIAO KUAN-HUA TOLD SEVERAL WESTERN DIPLOMATS IN FEBRUARY THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO DETERIORATION IN U.S.-PRC RELATIONS. FOR EXAMPLE, CHIAO TOLD THE WEST GERMAN AMBASSADOR ON FEBRUARY 21 THAT THE LINE OF THE SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE HAD BEEN KEPT AND WOULD BE KEPT (HONG KONG 2026). STATEMENTS LAST MONTH ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE TAIWAN ANTI-KMT UPRISING INCLUDED NOTABLE MILITARY REFERENCES AND DID NOT REPEAT LAST YEAR'S IMPLICITLY APPROVING REMARKS ABOUT U.S. POLICY ON THE TAIWAN ISSUE. THIS TREATMENT MAY HAVE IN PART REFLECTED RESTIVENESS OVER U.S. POLICY, BUT THERE WAS NO DIRECT CRITICISM (HONG KONG 2501). WE NOTE THAT CHINESE DIPLOMATS IN WASHINGTON AND ELSEWHERE HAVE ALSO RECENTLY CHIMED IN WITH REASSURANCES THAT "THE COURSE OF U.S.-PRC RELATIONS ARE SET."

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